



EYES EAST TOWARD EUROPE

THIS is Europe as it might be seen by a person of supernatural vision hovering at a point hundreds of miles above the Botwood airport in Newfoundland, on the direct air route from the east coast of the United States to England. The small globe at the upper right places this map in its proper relationship to the rest of the world.

It will be seen that from this part of North America, Narvik on the northern coast of Norway and Lisbon at the mouth of the Tagus River in Portugal are about equally distant. This is the actual air approach to Europe from North America by the northern route and here Europe is seen to be stretched out as a long coast line right across the direction of travel. To the left are the mountains of Norway and to the right the mountains of Spain. Between them is the low-lying coast of a huge bay in which the hilly British Isles are set. All the way from Denmark to the foot of the Pyrenees the land is virtually flat, pitching up

in a gentle slope to the hills of central France, the mountains of Bavaria, and the semi-circular Bohemian bastion which encloses the city of Prague. Beyond these foothills lies the main range of the Alps with branches jutting down into Italy and Yugoslavia. East of the Alps across the Danube is the huge semi-circle of the Carpathians enclosing the Hungarian plain.

These are the great natural features of European topography that have guided the wars of history, fought entirely on the ground by foot soldiers and cavalry. The same factors are influential today and may still be decisive in matters of strategy. But the airplane has added another dimension to strategy. This map shows more clearly than any how the British Isles are in effect a central advanced air base covering all of Europe lying on the direct line of air communications from North America. Iceland at the left flanks the route to Russia; the Portuguese Azores and Madeira at the right flank the route to Africa.

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